

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of tracking environmental performance of a producer of environmental emissions emission reductions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a production practice of the producer;~~

~~selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for determining at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

collecting production practice data of ~~[[the]]~~ at least one producer for a pre-selected time period responsive to ~~[[the]]~~ a protocol, said protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal associated with a production practice of said producer, wherein

said environmental emissions removal is selected from a practice group consisting of sequestration, mitigation and avoidance, and

said production practice data is related to at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, and waste management;

converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors;

~~designating a geographical reference for the producer;~~

converting at least a portion of the environmental data to [[an]] a plurality of emission reduction-unit units for a transferring thereof, each said emission reduction unit being adapted for use as at least one of an environmental offset, a credit, and an allowance; and

assigning [[an]] a respective identifier to [[the]] each emission reduction unit, wherein the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of [[the]] (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol; wherein

~~storing the identifier in a database; storing the production practice data in the database;~~

said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the emission reduction unit.

2. -3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the emission reduction unit comprises a plurality of emission reduction units resulting from the environmental data converting, and wherein the sequence portion of the identifier includes a range of sequence numbers representing the plurality of emission reduction units.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~production practice data converting includes the protocol having~~ pre-selected conversion factors are selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

9. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the production practice data to a data center; and
receiving the production practice data at the data center;

10. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing the identifier in a database; storing the production practice data in the database; and

correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring the emission reduction unit.

13. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising warranting the production practice data by the producer.

14. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising registering the emission reduction unit.

15. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising at least one of verifying a commercial suitability of the environmental emission unit, recording the registering, designating ownership of the environmental emission unit, and monitoring a transaction thereof.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the converting to an emission reduction unit includes choosing a registry jurisdiction.

19. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to the registry jurisdiction.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 19, further comprising: storing the registry designator, identifier, and production practice data; correlating the registry designator with the identifier and the identifier with the production practice data for access thereto.

21. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 20 further comprising: providing a password for retrieving the registry designator; and receiving a status regarding at least one of the emission reduction unit and the production practice data.

22. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring the emission reduction unit and providing a transaction verification therewith, wherein the transaction verification includes the identifier of the emission reduction unit.

23. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

24. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the identifier provides information regarding the protocol, the pre-selected time period, the geographical reference, and a sequence for the emission reduction unit corresponding to the emission reduction unit transferring.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 22, further comprising establishing a pool of emission reduction units and accessing the pool during a point of sale event for reducing at least a portion of the environmental emissions resulting from the point of sale event.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising transferring the emission reduction unit for offsetting at least a portion of an environmental emission.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein the environmental emission results from at least one of an emitter, a plurality of emitters, and a variety of emitters, and wherein the emitter is at least one of a direct emitter and an indirect emitter.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising allocating emission reduction units resulting from a plurality of producers controlled by a controlling entity for offsetting environmental emissions of the controlling entity.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.

32. (Currently amended) A method of tracking environmental ~~performance~~ emission reductions, the method comprising:

collecting ~~storing~~ production practice data of at least one producer in a database,
said production practice data being representative of at least one of environmental
emissions and environmental emissions removal for a time period, said production
practice data being collected for a pre-selected time period responsive to a
protocol, said protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental

emissions and environmental emissions associated with a production practice of said producer; wherein

said environmental emissions removal is selected from a practice group consisting of sequestration, mitigation and avoidance, and

said production practice data is related to at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, and waste management;

~~converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors;~~

~~designating a geographical reference for the production practice;~~

~~converting the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units; and~~

assigning an identifier storing a plurality of identifiers in the database, each said identifier being assigned to each a respective one of [[the]] a plurality of emission reduction units, wherein each said emission reduction unit results from (i) converting the production practice data to environmental data using pre-selected conversion factors and (ii) converting the environmental data to the plurality of emission reduction units for a transferring thereof, each said emission reduction unit being adapted for use as at least one of an environmental offset, a credit, and an allowance; wherein,

the identifier includes a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof, a vintage portion characterizing the time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion

characterizing at least one of (i) a geographical reference-portion for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the geographical-reference protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol, wherein said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the emission reduction unit.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[33]] 32, wherein the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

36. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[33]] 32, wherein the characterizing portion of the identifier includes at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the time period comprises a calendar year for the production practice.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

41. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising at least one of: verifying a commercial suitability of at least a portion of the plurality of environmental emission units; registering at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units with a registry; designating ownership of at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units; and monitoring a transaction for at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units.

42. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 41, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to a registry jurisdiction.

43. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 42, further comprising: storing the registry designator, identifier, and the production practice data; and correlating the registry designator with the identifier and the identifier with the production practice data for access thereto.

44. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising transferring at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units and providing a transaction verification therewith, wherein the transaction verification includes the identifier for each of the at least a portion thereof.

45. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

46. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein the identifier provides information regarding time period, the geographical reference, and a sequence for each of the emission reduction units being transferred.

47. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an environmental emission ~~is offset by an emission reduction unit and said environmental emission~~ results from at least one of an emitter, a plurality of emitters, and a variety of emitters, and wherein the emitter is at least one of a direct emitter and an indirect emitter.

48. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 32, further comprising allocating at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units to a producer of environmental emissions for an offsetting thereof.

49. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

50. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.

51. (Currently amended) A method of tracking environmental ~~emissions~~ emission reductions, the method comprising:

~~selecting a production practice;~~

~~selecting a protocol applicable with the production practice for quantifying at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal;~~

~~collecting production practice data for a pre-selected time period responsive to the protocol;~~

~~converting [[the]] production practice data to environmental data using the protocol~~ pre-selected conversion factors, said production practice data being collected from at least one producer for a pre-selected time period responsive to a protocol, said protocol being adapted to determine at least one of environmental emissions and environmental emissions removal associated with a production practice of said producer, wherein

said environmental emissions removal is selected from a practice group consisting of sequestration, mitigation and avoidance; and
said production practice data is related to at least one of the following production sectors: agriculture, forestry, petroleum production, gas production, enhanced oil recovery, fuel production, ethanol production, semiconductor manufacturing, metal production, coal production, deep geologic sequestration, durable goods manufacturing, and waste management;

~~designating a geographical reference for the production practice;~~

converting at least a portion of the environmental data to a plurality of emission reduction units, each said emission reduction unit being adapted for use as at least one of an environmental offset, a credit, and an allowance; wherein,

~~and assigning an identifier to each of the plurality of emission reduction units~~ has an assigned identifier, wherein the identifier includes comprising a sequence portion characterizing a succession thereof and a vintage portion characterizing the pre-selected time period for the production practice, and a characterizing portion characterizing at least one of [(the)] (i) a geographical reference for the producer and (ii) the protocol, said characterizing portion comprising at least one of a first field identifying a protocol type, a second field identifying a version of the protocol, and a third field identifying an authority for the protocol; wherein.

said identifier is adapted to be correlated with the production practice data and enables tracking of a status regarding the emission reduction unit.

53. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein the geographical reference includes a location representative of the production practice.

54. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, wherein the production practice data converting includes the protocol having conversion factors selected from the group including reducing GHG emissions, providing clean water credits, providing clean air credits, providing soil erosion credits, and certifying animal welfare.

55. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein the GHG reducing includes a parameter selected from parameters including effluent loading, quantity animals, manure containment storage period, manure containment storage practice, annual animal throughput, flaring volume, flaring efficiencies, gas types and generation rates, and chemical manufacturing efficiencies and emissions.

56. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, further comprising: storing the production practice data to a database; storing the identifier in the database; and correlating the production practice data with the identifier for access thereto.

57. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 56, further comprising: providing a password for accessing the database; accessing the database using the password; providing the identifier for at least one of the plurality of emission reduction units; and receiving a status report for the at least one of the plurality of emission reduction units.

58. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 57, further comprising registering at least a portion of the plurality of emission reduction units within a registry jurisdiction for providing a plurality of registered units.

59. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 58, further comprising at least one of selling, transferring, exchanging, and retiring at least a portion of the plurality of registered units.

60. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 59, further comprising: designating ownership of at least a portion of the plurality of registered units; and monitoring a transaction thereof.

61. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 58, further comprising assigning a registry designator to the emission reduction unit and correlating the registry designator to the registry jurisdiction.

62. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 61, further comprising correlating the registry designator with the identifier.

63. (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[67]] 61, further comprising: providing a password for retrieving the registry designator; and receiving a status regarding at least one of the plurality of registered units.

64. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 58, further comprising providing a transaction verification for each of the plurality of registered units transferred out of the registry.

65. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 64, wherein the transaction verification includes a certificate having the identifier carried thereon.

66. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, further including recording a time for the production practice data collecting and a geographic location thereof.

67. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51, further comprising reserving an emission reduction unit having at least one of a pre-selected geographic reference, protocol, and time period.